

NEBRASKA WEATHER & CROPS

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NEBRASKA
CROP & LIVESTOCK
REPORTING
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For Period Ending 4/1/84

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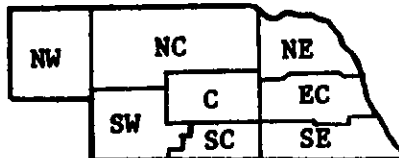
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WEATHER

During the last week of March, precipitation was quite general over the State with a quarter of an inch over the west, near a half to as much as an inch over the east with heaviest amounts again over the southeast. Temperatures were on the cool side averaging about three degrees below normal.

GENERAL

Temperatures during March averaged near two degrees below normal statewide. Precipitation was widespread with very little drying weather being experienced. The wet, cold weather has been tough on newborn calves but in dry western areas the moisture has been welcomed. Spring fieldwork was not yet underway in most areas because of wet soils. Snow was nearly gone with the only remaining accumulations in drifts and shelter belts.

CROPS

Winter wheat conditions rated 34% poor, 62% fair and 4% good. This was a sharp reduction from the March 1 rating when 51% of the crop rated good. The current rating is the lowest on records dating back to 1965 when the series started. Poorest conditions exist in the

southern third of the State. In those counties, 50% or more of the crop rated in poor condition. Winter wheat in the Panhandle has not yet fully broken dormancy. Therefore, the extent of possible winter kill was difficult to determine. In the south and east, crown and root rot were common. Additional concern over weed growth will result in numerous fields being sprayed. Spring moisture accumulations in western areas continue to be the bright spot with some come back possible. The first forecast of expected yields and acreage to be harvested for grain will be made in the May 1 Crop Report to be released May 9.

LIVESTOCK

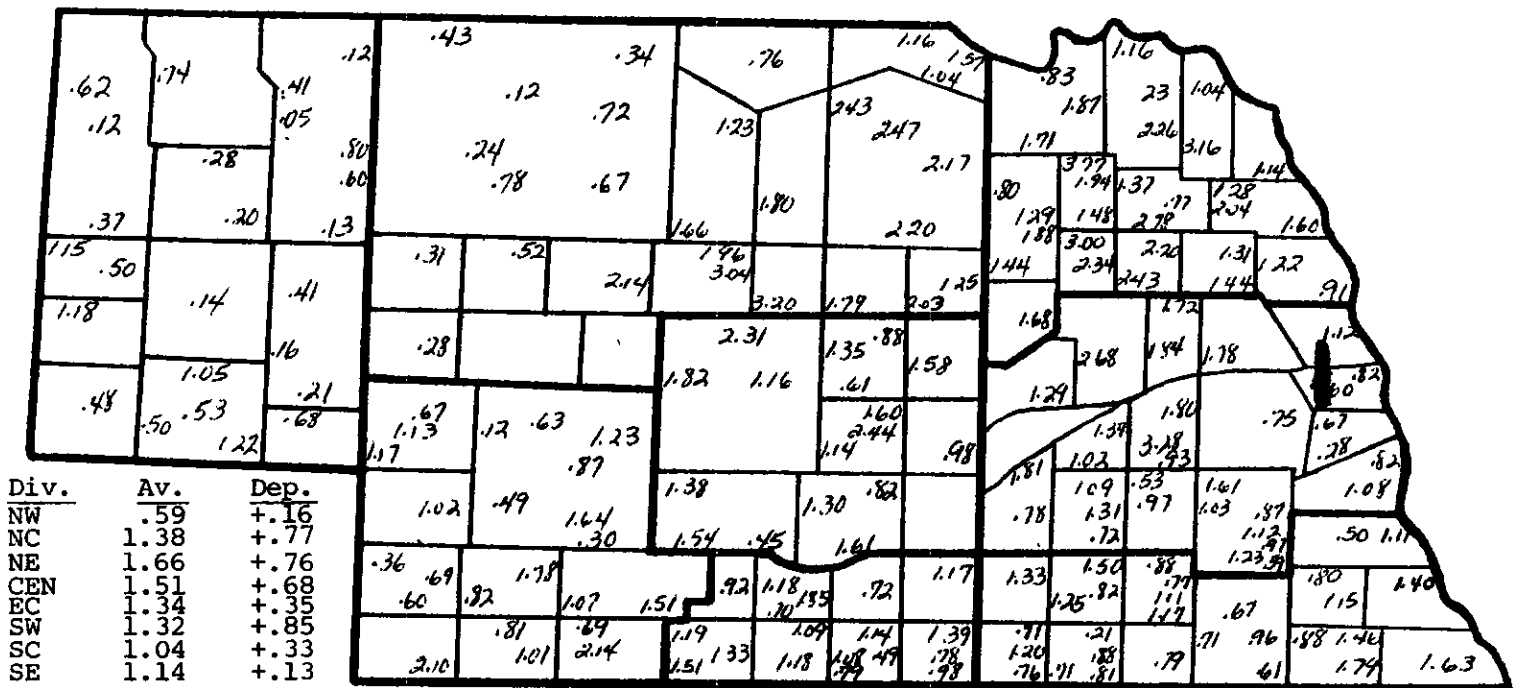
"Mud! Mud! Mud!" "Feedlots belly deep!" Comments like these continue to dominate the livestock situation as the month of March closed. Drying weather is badly needed to improve lots, farmsteads and county roads. The wet, muddy conditions have resulted in poor performance of feedlot cattle and in above normal calf losses in some areas. Hay and forage supplies remain very tight in southeastern counties. Plentiful hay supplies were reported in northern areas but movement was very difficult because of wet soils.

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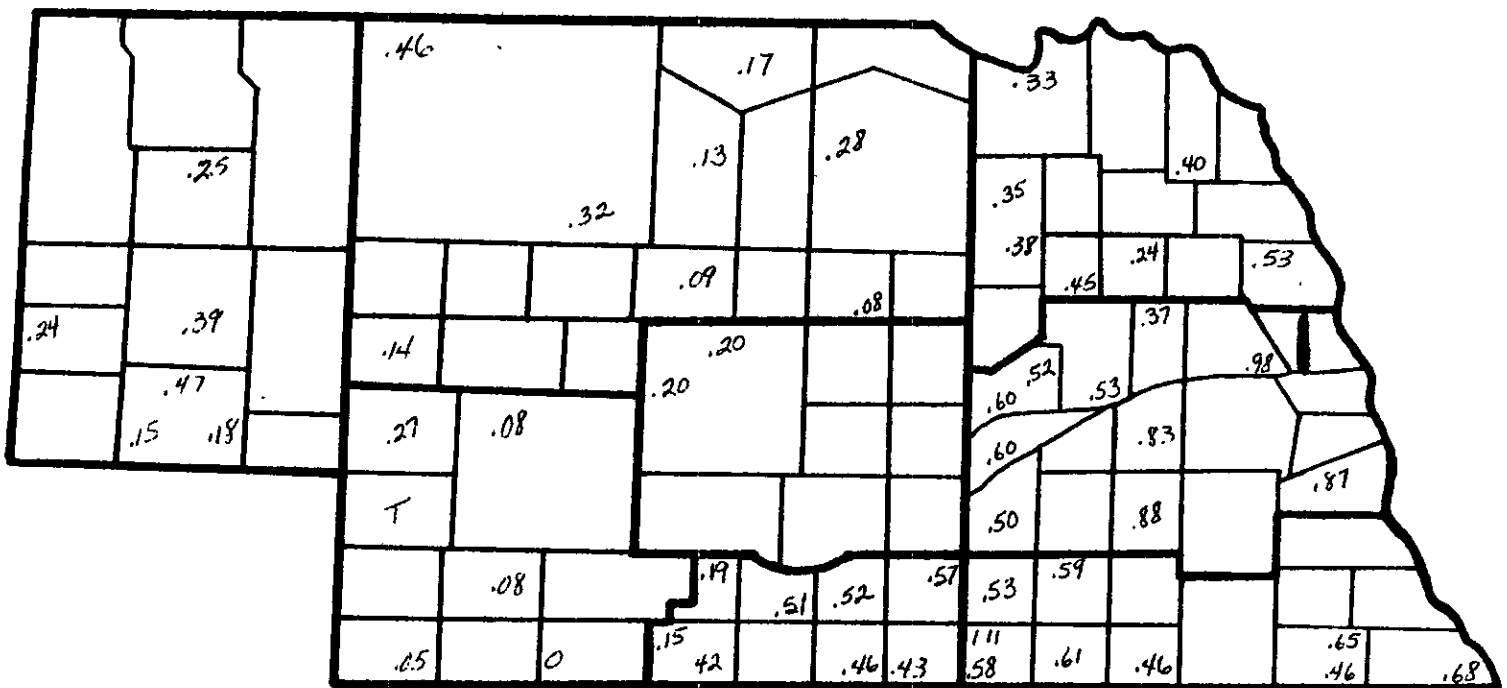
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PRECIPITATION MAP FOR MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1984 1/



1/ Courtesy of the Center for Agricultural Meteorology and Climatology, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

PRECIPITATION MAP FOR WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984



TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA FOR WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 1984

Station		Temperature				Precipitation
		Extremes		Mean	Departure	Total Inches 1/
		Max	Min			
NW	Chadron	51	15	33	--	.22
	Scottsbluff	53	22	36	-3	.34
	Sidney	48	16	31	--	.56
NC	Ord	47	32	38	--	.10
	Valentine	48	22	37	0	.23
NE	Norfolk	48	27	37	-3	.49
	Sioux City	53	27	39	-1	.51
CEN	Grand Island	48	29	40	-2	.63
EC	Lincoln	48	25	39	-5	1.19
	Omaha	49	25	38	-3	.98
SW	Imperial	53	19	35	--	.07
	North Platte	47	19	35	-5	.58

1/ Precipitation totals not included in map above.